
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

April 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

The public comment period is open from March 29 to June 1 on the draft master plan for the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest. Review the plan [online](#) or request a copy on CD or in a printed format.

Comment on draft plan for State Forest

The DNR has released a draft master plan for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NHAL) for public comment. NHAL, established in 1925 to protect the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau and Manitowish Rivers, is the largest state forest in Wisconsin at about 225,000 acres and the most-visited state property with over 2 million visitors per year. Demands for ecological protection, recreation activity and forest production have all been increasing and the master plan outlines proposals to ensure the long-term sustainability of the NHAL. Public review and comments on the draft plan are invited from March 29 to June 1, 2005. You may comment at public meetings scheduled for May 3 (Neenah), May 4 (Fitchburg), May 5 (Boulder Junction) or May 9 (Wausau), by e-mail to [Dennis Leith](#) or by mail to Dennis Leith, State Forest Superintendent, WDNR Service Center, 8770 Hwy J, Woodruff, WI 54568. To review the draft plan and find more details about the public meetings and planning process, visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/NHAL/index.htm

Governor Doyle accepted documents of certification on behalf of the 27 counties participating in the forest certification programs. Wisconsin's county forest entry represents the largest single award of certification ever issued for public land under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative program.

Governor honors county forest certification

"Receiving certification highlights the excellent management of our county forest lands and ultimately ensures that Wisconsin producers will continue to be able to compete in the global marketplace," noted Governor Doyle upon accepting documents of certification on March 18 for the Wisconsin County Forests. "Certification is crucial to addressing the growing demand for certified forest products from many of the large purchasers of Wisconsin products, particularly in the pulp and paper industry and fits with my 'Grow Wisconsin' initiative."

The County Forest system provides more than 6,000 miles of snowmobile, ATV, skiing/hiking trails, and forest roads along with a wealth of hunting and fishing opportunities. Forest products from these forests also generate in excess of \$21 million dollars annually in timber sale revenue for the counties and townships encompassing these lands plus an additional \$17.2 million in economic impact.

"The sustainable management of these county forests is critical to the tourism and forest products industries in the State," Governor Doyle said. "These two industries account for 12 percent of the gross state product and 18 percent of the jobs. These large blocks of forest play an important role in providing habitat for a wide array of plants and animals while also improving the quality of our water and air."

Campfire safety and personal responsibility will be the focus of the 2005 Wildland Fire Prevention Week in April.

Fire Prevention Week: April 18-22

Signs of spring fire season are just around the corner, including a yearly tradition of outdoor burning for many people. To address the safety concerns of Wisconsin residents, the third full week in April (April 18-22, 2005) is designated as 'Wildfire Prevention Week.' The 2005 theme focuses on campfire safety and personal responsibility. For more information on safe outdoor burning practices and local fire restrictions, contact your [local DNR office](#) or local fire agency.

Gypsy moth spray blocks announced

A Website and phone line offer information about the 2005 gypsy moth suppression program.

The DNR offers a voluntary program to suppress gypsy moth outbreaks using a state-organized aerial insecticide treatment. The treatments typically include a formulation of the bacterial insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstakii* (Btk) or Gypchek, a viral insecticide specific to Gypsy Moth caterpillars. The 2005 spray activities will likely take place in late-May or early-June depending on the weather. Starting in May, there will be frequent updates to the Gypsy Moth Information Line - **1-800-642-MOTH (6684)** - regarding where and when spray activities will take place. To review maps of the 2005 spray blocks, visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/gm/spray_areas/index.html

Forestry monitoring for water quality

Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality have proven to be an effective and voluntary method of ensuring that forestry practices don't adversely impact the quality of water resources in Wisconsin.

The most recent monitoring results for Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) – voluntary guidelines to minimize nonpoint pollution from forest management activities – are now available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/bmpmonitoring2003.html>

In 2003 and 2004, monitoring teams found that BMPs were correctly applied over 90% of the time on DNR lands and county forests. Forestry BMP baseline monitoring began in 1995 to determine the extent to which BMPs are applied, effectiveness of properly applied BMPs in protecting water quality, and the effects of not applying BMPs where needed. That baseline monitoring showed that when BMPs were applied correctly, they were effective in protecting water quality in 99% of the cases. Since the monitoring began, BMP application rates have generally increased and the continued support by loggers, landowners, foresters and other stakeholders will enable this voluntary program to continue being practical and effective in protecting Wisconsin's water resources.

Film celebrates Forest Service centennial

The Forest Service celebrates their centennial this year with a new documentary. You have upcoming opportunities to view it in Madison, Stevens Point and Ashland. Don't miss the chance to see this production.

"The Greatest Good" – a new 2-hour documentary produced for the centennial of the USDA Forest Service this year – features rarely seen footage and photos along with dozens of interviews to trace the history of the federal agency's effort to deliver the most benefits to the most people while remaining good stewards of the land. The title comes from a maxim popularized by the first Forest Service Chief Gifford Pinchot who, in 1905, urged a reconciliation of conflicting interests through analysis of "the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run." Upcoming public viewings of the "[Greatest Good](#)" film are scheduled for:

- April 4 at 7 p.m. UW-Stevens Point in the University Center – Laird Room
- April 12 at 7 p.m. UW-Madison in the State Historical Society auditorium at 816 State Street
- September 24 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center near Ashland for Public Lands Day

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